

SECURE COMMONWEALTH PANEL

April 23, 2008

Patrick Henry Building, Richmond

Attendance: Bruce Benson, Paula Burnette, Eric Casey, Aneesh Chopra, Bob Crouch, Ralph Davis, Creigh Deeds, Kay Goss, Kelly Hobbs, Jim Horton, Gail Jaspen, Dan Jenkins, Ron Keys, John Knapp, Greg Lucyk, Dario Marquez, John Marshall, Marcus Martin, Cathie Hutchins, Leigh Middleditch, Mike Neuhard, Karen Remley, Jeff Rezin, Norris Royston, Henry Stanley.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Bob Crouch (Chairman) welcomed the panel to Richmond and thanked the panel members and their representatives for attending.

Mr. Crouch briefed the panel on his monthly conference calls with the sub panel chairs in which they discuss their concerns and ideas for future panel projects. A topic of interest by the sub panel chairs is the focus of this morning's session and will engage ourselves with for the next two years. Public outreach, awareness, and building a culture of preparedness are all initiatives which touch each of the sub panel's work. We want to identify good programs already in existence, gaps for the coming year, and strategies to alleviate those gaps.

READY VIRGINIA

Bob Spieldenner from the Department of Emergency Management presented information on Ready Virginia. Mr. Spieldenner is the lead on the Ready Virginia campaign, which is a statewide public education effort to prepare Virginians for all hazards, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. Please see Mr. Spieldenner's presentation under Meeting Materials on our website.

PUBLIC AWARENESS STRATEGY

Arlene Cundiff from the Department of Education discussed preparedness efforts in Virginia schools. Ms. Cundiff presented information to the panel on Standards of Learning for Virginia schools, what preparedness programs are already included in the routine school curriculum (i.e. tornado drill, fire drill), and expanded on the *Code of Virginia* legislative preparedness requirements such as the March 18, 2008, Tornado Drill. Please see Ms. Cundiff's presentation under Meeting Materials on our website.

James Bailey is the Security Supervisor for the City of Hampton Schools and presented on the City of Hampton's efforts in security and preparedness. After receiving a 2005 grant, the City of Hampton Public Schools collaborated with local police, fire, mental health, and the health community to complete a comprehensive safety plan. Every public school in the City of Hampton received copies of the plan, which addressed what to do in the event of active shooter, tornado, hurricane, power outage, weapon and other crisis incidents. The Hampton City schools actively performed outreach to local first responders to help in addressing these areas. For instance, they participated in tabletop

exercises with local police to make sure their plan for an active shooter was correct, received training on suspicious packages, performed fire, missing child, and lock down drills, etc. As the threat environment changes, the plan is reviewed and updated. Teachers, staff, and substitute teachers are trained on the crisis plan and know what to do during an event. The school system also developed a brochure in English and Spanish for parents on basic information they need to know if a critical incident occurs. In addition, there is a hotline for parents to call and in the future a text alert system may be purchased to let parents know of an incident at school.

Janet Clements from the Department of Emergency Management discussed why people get ready and why they don't. An adult will not take action unless they feel threatened. The state can do only so much, but there is little money to help in this effort. Repetition of preparedness messages is extremely important to sinking in with the public mindset. We are beginning to utilize the school system more by getting the children to take action and bring home information to their parents. Parents may be more receptive when it comes from their kids.

Bob Crouch wanted to echo that point that parents will probably pay attention to the Boy Scouts, the church, or neighbors rather than a representative from the government.

Suzanne Simmons from the Department of Emergency Management presented information on the Virginia Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, a grass roots effort to get citizens involved in preparedness. Please see Ms. Simmons' presentation under Meeting Materials on our website.

Bob Crouch then facilitated a panel discussion on their ideas and thoughts on public awareness.

Kay Goss: FEMA, Region I is leading the way with a new program called Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) which is a pilot program to teach basic emergency preparedness skills to middle school children. Copies of this program will be in circulation soon.

Mike Neuhard: There are 4 strategies being discussed. (1) The need to reinforce school curriculum around preparedness, (2) Need to strengthen sharing of model programs dealing with personal preparedness, (3) Need to strengthen tactics, and (4) Direction of youth programs and how we can reinforce opportunities to strengthen partnerships across all programs through preparedness organizations. For instance, American Heart has an 8 hour, one- day program on CPR, first aid, and AED; all things to save your life and your family. We need to look at Standards of Learning and state laws to see if they can be strengthened. These are all good opportunities to focus on for the next two years.

Gail Jaspen: Boy Scouting could be a good resource for a statewide drive for selling preparedness kits and handing out outreach material. Efforts are underway to have a preparedness badge in the scouts.

Bob Crouch announced that a tax free holiday for purchasing preparedness supplies will be scheduled the last week of May. This will be an annual event.

Constance McGeorge: One way to get first responders involved in preparedness efforts might be to link a first responder with the boy scouts when they are out selling these preparedness kits. The first responder may provide detail information on questions citizens may have.

Dr. Marcus Martin discussed preparing emergency kits and making sure they are placed properly in the home.

Ron Keys discussed the efforts in the Hampton Roads area. Prepared messages are given to the media and instantly ready to broadcast for a particular scenario. In terms of emergency kits, Hampton Roads encourages the preparation of multiple kits; your car is an excellent storing point with a smaller kit at work and a larger kit for home. Hampton Roads meets twice a month with local emergency managers, fire, police, Red Cross, and FBI to share information. They are now getting ramped up for hurricane season.

Ron Keys went on to talk about shelters. The local media have maps showing the locations of the shelters in the Hampton Roads areas, but stressed that every incident is different and may require different actions.

Leigh Middleditch: Sharing after-action reports quickly after an incident has occurred so it is fresh in the minds of citizens might get more people involved in pre-preparedness efforts.

Jeff Rezin: In reference to the tornado in Frederick County, his family acted quickly, but did some things wrong. Maybe go to the different media outlets and have them ask the public, “what did you do right” and “what did you do wrong” and focus on their mistakes. The media is good at illustrating what went wrong.

Greg Lucyk: In reference to the Hanover tornado, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* ran a headline about the touch down of the tornado. Maybe to highlight being prepared, we should give the media prepared statements to run if certain incidents happen like a tornado such as the one in Hanover and ask the readers “what would you have done”.

Paula Burnette: We are a coupon minded society; we could have a Clip – n- Save section in the paper for preparedness items during the tax holiday.

Kelly Hobbs: Wal-Mart provides checklist, for such things as back to school items. We might be able to provide Get Ready brochures besides such items as flashlights. Large print checklists are available for seniors.

Dan Jenkins: Insert preparedness related information into the electric bills.

Eric Casey: Reach out to the grocery store managers to promote displays relating to preparedness items during the tax-free holiday. Such as putting bottled water, batteries in a special section of the store. Grocery stores could orient the items based on the disasters that most impact their area. It is a fast way to get the message out without a significant cost.

Dr. Norris Royston: The Medical Society of Virginia has partnered with pharmaceutical companies to give to people without insurance. Use this as a vehicle to educate doctors, stress preparedness, deliver preparedness kits to the doctor's offices, and distribute ready brochures.

Dr. Karen Remley: EMS volunteer personnel is lacking in younger volunteers, especially in the rural communities.

Paula Burnette: Asking rescue squads to do one more thing might be a breaking point, but outreach is so important and they are able to reach a lot of people.

Jeff Rezin: Frederick County's CERT participation includes businesses, retirees, and high school members. Concerns have been voiced about insurance issues with members under 18 and allowing CERT teams to come into homes after a disaster.

Suzanne Simmons: CERT is a locally driven program. Some communities will not activate their CERT teams for an event and some have taken on the liability of the insurance problems. Best practices need to be focused on.

Jeff Rezin: We need to continue to keep CERT members active, trained, and interested.

Ron Keys: The Hampton Roads CERT has wrestle with these problems also. Memorandums of Understanding have been signed by the CERT program and their local community on activations. Hampton Roads has created a database of all CERT members and do not let younger ones participate in certain activities.

Lisa Kaplowitz (Department of Health): The Medical Reserve Corp is a function under the local health offices and is covered under insurance and liability protection. These members need to be trained and to learn to work as a team. They are kept engaged by participating in exercises and other small events.

John Knapp posed the question about how we can measure the success of these programs. Can you really measure preparedness in general?

Greg Lucyk: It is important that we reach out to the special needs community, such as nursing homes.

Bob Mauskopf (Department of Health): Surveys have been conducted in licensed home care facilities to analyze plans and provide plan templates to follow. Information on

nursing homes is given to the Department of Emergency Management to help with evacuation needs.

A discussion ensued among panel members on school staff trained in CPR. Ms. Cundiff expressed that it is required that one staff person in the school building be trained in CPR.

Bob Crouch thanked the members and audience for a great discussion.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUB PANEL REPORT

Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz of the Department of Health gave the sub panel report. Please see presentation under Meeting Materials on our website.

FIRST RESPONDER SUB PANEL

Colonel Henry Stanley presented the First Responder sub panel report. Please see presentation under Meeting Materials on our website.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SUB PANEL

Leigh Middleditch provided the Business and Industry sub panel report.

There are about 80 members in the Business and Industry sub panel and they have been broken down into three subcommittees.

(1) Credentialing: Priority Access System divides organizations/private industry into tiers that designates their priority access to a disaster scene (i.e. power companies would be in the first tier). It is too expensive to replicate the federal system. We have discussed using something comparable to the hunting and fishing licenses system.

(2) Education: Trying to get the Virginia Chamber of Commerce involved to promote continuity of operations planning for businesses. Marc is working on a module for a pilot project to educate and train businesses on developing a continuity of operations plan.

(3) Information Sharing: Providing businesses with daily reports about terrorism nationally and locally; operates like the Department of Homeland Security's system and have businesses sign up for these reports.

Need to provide businesses with an incentive to have a completed/tested continuity of operations plan. Like a Governor's stamp of approval.

These taskforces will report out at the next Secure Commonwealth Panel meeting.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUB PANEL

John Knapp gave the Critical Infrastructure sub panel report.

Critical Infrastructure sub panel has not met since the last panel meeting. The Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency Strategic Plan is in the process of being

routed through the Cabinet for their approval. The hard part is to come, which will be implementation.

OUTREACH SUB PANEL

Ron Keys gave the Outreach sub panel report.

The Outreach sub panel has not met since the last Secure Commonwealth Panel meeting.

Bob Crouch stressed that the Outreach sub panel will be the vehicle for these outreach efforts discussed this morning.

HURRICANE EVACUATION STUDY

Michael Cline of the Department of Emergency Management presented an update to the panel on the Army Corps of Engineers study. Please see presentation under Meeting Materials on our website.

Questions/Comments:

- During an evacuation, there will be fuel tankers on the highways in case travelers run out of gas.
- What about those who have no transportation to leave in an evacuation? School and city buses will be provided and the Virginia National Guard will be able to provide assistance/equipment during an evacuation.
- The evacuation plan does accommodate the special needs population.
- Rail transportation will be used to move critical equipment out of the way of the storm.
- 120 inland shelters have been identified.
- Due to the long hours predicted during an evacuation, we need to make sure that evacuees prepare an emergency kit for the road.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Bob Crouch reported on performance measures. To see a copy of the measures, please visit our website under Meeting Materials.

ELECTION SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Bob Crouch discussed the new Election Security Working Group.

An election security working group made up of state government representatives is in place and will work through issues that may have an effect on the national election.

CABINET PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Hampton Hart from the Department of Emergency Management reviewed this summer's Cabinet level exercise. To view Mr. Hart's presentation, please check under Meeting Materials on our website. The panel was invited to attend the exercise.

INTEROPERABILITY CONFERENCE

Constance McGeorge, Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator, discussed the upcoming Virginia Interoperability Conference. To view Ms. McGeorge's presentation, please check under Meeting Materials on our website.

VDOT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Steve Mondul of the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness made a presentation on the VDOT review during the ice storms earlier this year. To view Mr. Mondul's presentation, please check under Meeting Materials on our website.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Marc Follmer of the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness reviewed preparedness related legislation. To view Mr. Follmer's presentation, please check under Meeting Materials on our website.

FIRST RESPONDER AUTHENTICATION CREDENTIAL UPDATE

Mike McAllister of the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness updated the panel on the activities with the First Responder Authentication Credential. To view Mr. McAllister's presentation, please check under Meeting Materials on our website.

CLOSING

Bob Crouch thanked the presenters and the panel for their interest and dialogue. The next meeting will be July 9 outside of Richmond.

Bob Crouch adjourned the meeting.